The Colonial Roots of Globalization: Iberian Empires and their Legacies
Proposal for workshop and edited volume

Coordinators:
Anna More (Spanish & Portuguese, UCLA)
Ivonne del Valle (Spanish & Portuguese, UC, Berkeley)
Rachel O’Toole (History, UC, Irvine)

What is so modern about globalization? This project directly addresses two interrelated problems in Latin American studies—a tendency to delink contemporary globalization from the region’s deep history and the lack of comparative frameworks for analyzing the region’s cultural interactions with other geographical regions. By reaching back to the initial stages of Iberian expansion, our project will investigate the geographically dispersed networks that linked the colonization of the Americas to Asia and Africa, as well as to Europe, thereby challenging conventional geographic boundaries of Latin American Studies and adding comparative and connective dimensions to Latin America-related work. Secondly, we seek to find a historical basis for comparisons among regions affected by Iberian and European expansion and thus adjust the notion that globalization is a recent phenomenon. Paradigms such as world-systems approaches have insisted upon the critical history of global encounters, corporate networks, trade routes and capital flows, but have emphasized the centrality of Europe. The Iberian dimensions of early modern globalization, by contrast, demonstrate shifting and multiple nodes of commercial and cultural power throughout the Atlantic and Pacific.

The purpose of the workshop and edited volume will be to systematize current research and develop theoretical implications that reflect upon the specific ways in which regions of Latin America have been implicated in cycles of global modernity, the commonalities and differences among regions such as the Philippines, Goa, Angola, and Latin America and the ways in which current dilemmas of globalization reflect colonization from the fifteenth century onwards. Moreover, we propose to balance institutional history with that of non-institutional actors, alternative or popular corporate bodies, and issues of cultural translation that both furthered centralization common to global designs as well as deviated, undermined, or redefined the meaning of hegemony. Through this study we will establish the basis for investigating how current political processes continue those that pre-dated and coincided with the arrival of Europeans in Latin America.

Rationale for Topic
A revision of narratives of globalization to include the multiple histories of ways in which markets, social networks, and imperial designs have formed Latin American culture is urgently needed. Studies of both the contemporary dynamics of globalization and world-systems as a grand narrative of capital accumulation have shared a language that pits center against periphery, universalism against particularism, and global against local (Canclini 1989, Mignolo 2000). And while world-systems approaches provide a critical corrective to a liberal interpretation of global processes (Wallerstein 1980, Quijano 2000), the ongoing influence of these studies has meant that economics are treated as a principal motor of historical processes, relegating culture to a position of superstructure. By contrast, the growing number of empirical studies of the Atlantic and Pacific circuits have given a much more dynamic and complex picture of how colonization
recombined cultural practices and social networks in ways that both furthered and competed with the economic goals of global markets. Law, religion, and art (Benton 2002, The Jesuits 1999, 2006, Sweet 2011) as well as enslaved and free people (Altman 2000, Bennett 2003) circulated and in turn influenced how colonizers and colonized imagined the centers of power as well as who constituted the powerful. While multiple scholars have long done excellent work in examining the processes of colonialism within regional dynamics (Clendinnen 1987, Farriss 1984, Stern 1982), our project ties local events to networks that both preceded and developed alongside European imperial expansion from the sixteenth century onward.

We thus seek to challenge the prevailing language of globalization by coordinating microhistorical scholarship and, from our exchanges, to develop theoretical insights regarding the way that the multiple centers of early modern Iberian empires (fifteenth – eighteenth centuries) interacted with each other through long-distance networks. Crucial to an understanding of globalization is both the creation of multiple networks—those of commerce and slavery, for example, or of science and religion—and their mutual and conflictive interactions. We want to answer questions such as, in what way did Jesuits and other religious networks interface and collaborate with labor and economic networks? Or in which ways did cultural dynamics—the reading of Garcilaso de la Vega’s *Comentarios reales*, for example—complicate economic networks, such as tax collection, and how did this event connect with rumors about an English intervention in Bourbon territories? How did enslaved people from the Kingdom of Kongo influence indigenous Nahua encounters with Catholicism in Mexico? How did Asian designs in Andean textiles articulate a challenge to European hegemony from the powerful silver-producing regions? Equally important would be to arrive at the matrix of interests (law, economy, culture) that gave shape to multiple networks and made them intelligible (or unintelligible) to one another.

**Specific Themes of Project**

In accordance with the fluidity of religion, arts, and knowledge during the early modern period, the workshop and edited volume will draw on scholars from the disciplines of history, art history and literature. This interdisciplinarity reflects current dialogues already taking place in various venues, including international conferences such as LASA. Through our proposed workshop we hope to consolidate some of our intersecting interests in material culture, institutions, and networks as well as common perspectives on the need to bridge research on popular and elite actors. While some of the scholars who will make up this dialogue focus on local contexts, others are investigating long-distance commercial and corporate networks. Bringing our scholarship into dialogue will allow us to develop new theoretical paradigms that focus on three principle areas of negotiation in Iberian imperial contexts: 1) authority and its manifestations in legal, religious and commercial interactions; 2) cultural translation as both a problem and creative response to cultural encounters effected under different levels of duress; 3) institutions, their ideological debates and the material effects of these.

The first theme, “Authority and its Manifestations,” addresses the particularity of early modern globalization in which authorities were distinguishable, but not centralized. The Iberian empires, while promoting exclusive regal symbolism and centralization, were in fact formed through layers of authority that combined the religious and the economic, the cultural and the social. Recent scholarship in this area has shown how Crown councils and officials, merchant guilds,
the extensive hierarchy of the Catholic Church, indigenous authorities, and colonizing entrepreneurs negotiated control over labor, land, and belief with enslaved as well as indigenous communities including those who moved in-between (Cañique 2004, Herzog 2004, Yannakakis 2008). Rather than vesting power in imperial institutions, participants will investigate how power was manifested in various and many times contradictory structures of authority, including legal, religious, and cultural. Theoretically, we are interested in tensions around customs and practice, often the focus of Christianization during this period, as well as corporate bodies that provided multiple points of authority.

The second theme, “Cultural Translation and Creative Responses” addresses the overemphasis on economic processes in world-systems scholarship. While the mechanics of capitalism as a historical process have often led to disputes over the geographical origin of capital accumulation (Abu-Lughod 1991, Frank 1998) it has been assumed that economic processes are the determining factor in global networks and that these processes automatically lead to centralized value. This assumption is belied by the messiness of actual social interactions, whether religious, commercial or cultural. In these, issues of cultural translation not only created obstacles to shared systems of value, but also led to novel and hybrid forms that promoted values outside of the reduction of matter, practice, and labor to capitalist accumulation. The processes and effects of globalization, or the contact (often asymmetrical) of distinct polities or people, occurred in the early modern era according to cultural, social, and intellectual dynamics rooted in practices and networks that pre-dated European expansion. The task of our project is to engage world-systems scholarship from a cultural perspective to better investigate ways that values embedded in language and material culture furthered or undermined the economic motives of European expansion.

The third theme, “Global Institutions and Ideologies” seeks to bridge scholarship on colonial Iberian empires that has either focused on local studies or on imperial mechanics. While research on particular regions has illuminat ed the daily processes of colonization and highlighted the hegemonic or resistant agency of indigenous or enslaved communities, the focus has often resulted in a distancing of these agents from economic elites or crown authorities. More recent examinations of how racial hierarchies functioned (Martínez 2008, Silverblatt 2004) notably have returned the state to the forefront of analysis, but removed the actions of individuals or regional communities. Our project seeks, therefore, to combine an understanding of individual or subaltern actions with a consciousness of powerful economic, royal, and ecclesiastical forces. In doing so, it will also provide a corrective to the notion of static ideologies backed by institutions. Rather, we will look at ways that the institutional, technological and practical negotiations that accompanied Iberian expansion generated debates that, while structured by ideological frameworks, did not necessarily reproduce these.

Bringing together scholars working in early modern Pacific Rim, Atlantic and Latin American cultural studies, social history, and art history to dialogue on these themes is a crucial step to revising received notions, from both world-systems and contemporary studies of globalization, about the place of Iberian empires in the formation of a global modernity. Although many of our proposed participants have coincided and worked together in different venues, this workshop will be the first to bring together scholarship on the three circuits of social, political and economic interaction in early modern Iberian empires. Furthermore, working under the aegis of a
LASA initiative would provide an unparalleled forum for bringing together scholars working in Latin American institutions with those from North American universities as well as the other regions relevant to the geographies of Iberian empires.

As the first of its kind, the resulting edited volume will provide a missing perspective on the nature of globalization as a deep historical process in Latin America. In publishing our results we will consider the many recent efforts to delineate Atlantic Studies from an Iberian perspective and the preliminary forays into studies of the early modern Pacific Rim. We will also distinguish our volume from successful examples of comparative work on Iberian colonialism and early modern global culture. The recent edited volume *Coloniality at Large* (2008) invites comparisons between Latin America and other colonized regions of the world, but focuses on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Another multi-volume work on Jesuits in the early modern period (*The Jesuits*, 1999, 2006) has delineated the order’s global reach but is restricted to institutional aspects of art, culture, and education. By shifting the focus of inquiries into globalization to the main period of colonization in the Iberian world, the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries, and by including both institutional and non-institutional actors, we hope to spark comparisons across time as well as geography. Potential publishers include the Diálogos Series of Latin American Studies at the University of New Mexico Press, Latin America Otherwise Series of Duke University Press, and the University of California Press.

**Workshop in Mexico City**
Our proposed workshop will be held for four days from March 25-28, 2013 in Mexico City. We plan to involve fifteen participants from Latin America (Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Peru, and Mexico), as well as the United States and Europe. The first day will be devoted to discussing key theoretical readings on world history, cultural studies, and colonial literary scholarship. During the second and third day we will conduct workshops based on pre-circulated papers written by each participant. Discussions will be grouped around the three themes outlined above to promote regional and interdisciplinary comparisons. In the morning of the last day, participants will work in break-out groups to discuss how they will revise their work given the shared critique and discussion. In the afternoon, we will reconvene as a whole group to discuss our working definition of early modern globalization and plans for publication. Through these intense sessions, integrating participants’ research with theoretical discussions, we intend to arrive at an understanding of Iberian globalization that bring into dialogue current research in Atlantic, Pacific Rim, and Latin American cultural studies from North America, Latin America, and other regions.

The potential participants in our workshop are for the most part junior to mid-career scholars (those from U.S. institutions are largely recently-tenured associate professors) whose research has begun to map out new directions that stretch across the Atlantic and Pacific worlds. The study of slavery, religious networks—Jesuit or otherwise—the creation of scientific communities, and the dispersal of ideas or artistic styles intersect with our main themes of authority, institutional history, and cultural translation. The workshop participants investigate problems such as how indigenous painters in Peru translated and adjusted (conceptually and materially) European styles for their own use, or how missionaries translated indigenous or African concepts for more effective Catholic evangelization. Connecting the distinct regions of the Iberian empires, other participants work on which institutions participated in the
dissemination of Enlightenment ideas in New Spain, how different populations interpreted and responded to these ideas, and how the complex series of networks involved in the commerce of slaves (whether religious, scientific or commercial) helped or thwarted each other. All of the participants work around clusters of ideas and problems from different perspectives and in different regions (Peru, Mexico, Philippines, China, Angola), but all emphasize a cultural approach as well as a keen interest in transregional exchange, connections, and comparisons. By engaging in constructive dialogue around our work, we propose to combine our efforts to produce a comparative study that arrives at a shared paradigm for Early Modern Globalization.

1. Karla Jasso (Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico) Science, Scientific instruments
2. Miruna Achim (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico) Natural histories, Scientific networks
3. John D. Blanco (UC San Diego, USA) Religion, Frontiers, Philippines
4. Guillermo Wilde (Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina) Jesuits and globalization
5. Elisabetta Corsi (Sapienza, Roma) Jesuits in China
6. Ivonne del Valle (UC Berkeley, USA) Jesuits, Religion, Enlightenment
7. Bruno Feitler (Universidade Federal da Bahia, Brazil/Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Guarulhos) Religion, Inquisition
8. Anna More (UC Los Angeles, USA) Jesuits, Slavery, Baroque
9. Juan Pablo Viqueira Albán (Colegio de México, Mexico) Popular culture, Enlightenment
10. María Emma Mannarelli (Universidad Nacional de San Marcos, Perú) Gender, Sexuality, Medicine, Hygiene
11. Rachel O’Toole (UC Irvine, USA) Slavery, Peru, Africa
12. María Eugenia Chávez Maldonado (Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Medellín) Slavery, Race, Gender.
13. James Sweet (University of Wisconsin, USA) Slavery, Africa, Brazil
14. Alessandra Russo (Columbia University, USA) Indigenous art, Art history, Translation
15. Charlene Villaseñor-Black (UC Los Angeles, USA) Art history, Religious images

Concrete Outcomes
We come to this proposal with the experience of having initiated and participated in a 2009-2010 University of California Multi-Campus Research Group, consisting of 12 faculty members from University of California campuses whose research on Iberian empires allowed us to conduct preliminary discussions on the topic of early modern globalization. As an outcome of this dialogue we developed the 2013-2014 core program for UCLA’s Center for 17th- and 18th-Century Studies which will allow us to bring together North American and international scholars in three linked conferences on the theme. Our current proposal for a workshop in Mexico City and resulting edited volume will bring this conversation to LASA, more fully involve academics working in Latin American institutions, and expand our interdisciplinary approaches. A March 2013 workshop will allow us to meet and workshop the preliminary original articles for the proposed edited volume. If funded, we will immediately begin looking for a press for the publication of this volume and request final articles for August 2013. On this timeline we would be able to publish the volume by the end of 2014 or the beginning of 2015.
### Budget

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**Other Potential Funding Sources**

University of California, Irvine, International Center for Writing & Translation
UC Mexus

* The requirement to hold the workshop before May 2013 precludes several potential funding sources with later deadlines
Bibliography


ANNA MORE (short cv)

EMPLOYMENT
2010-present Associate Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, UCLA
2002-2010 Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, UCLA

EDUCATION
PhD. 2003. University of California, Berkeley. Hispanic Languages and Literatures
M.A. 1997. University of California, Berkeley. Hispanic Languages and Literatures
B.A. 1993. Harvard University. Magna cum laude, Department of History and Literature

PUBLICATIONS

Books
Baroque Sovereignty: Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora and the Colonial Mexican Archive Philadelphia: U Penn Press. (Forthcoming 2013)

Books in progress
Writing Iberian Africa in the Age of Slavery a book-length study of Lusophone and Hispanic writings on Africa and the African slave trade in the Americas

Articles
“Mecánica y pasión en Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz.” In Machina-medium-apparatus: La tecnología en América hispánica. Edited by Karla Jasso and Anna More. Mexico: Iberoamericana-INBA (Forthcoming 2013)
“Thinking with the Inquisition: Heretical Science and Popular Knowledge in Seventeenth-Century Mexico.” Romantic Review. Special double issue edited by José Rabasa and Jesus Rodríguez Velasco. (Forthcoming)

Selected Fellowships
2007-2008 University of California President’s Research Fellowship in the Humanities
2007 Fulbright Fellowship, Brazil for project “The Memory of Slavery in Contemporary Brazil.” March-June
Ivonne del Valle

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

IN PROGRESS
Searching for Pantitlan: Technology and Knowledge about Water in the Formation of a Colonial State.

ARTICLES


“From José de Acosta to Johann Herder and Adam Smith: Barbarians, Climate Change and (Colonial) Technology as the End of History.” Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation (forthcoming).


EMPLOYMENT
Associate Professor, U C Berkeley 2012-present
Assistant Professor, U C Berkeley 2009 - 2012
Assistant Professor, University of Michigan 2004 - 2009
Rachel Sarah O’Toole (short c.v.)

Employment
2012 – Present  Associate Professor of Colonial Latin American & African Diaspora History
2005 – 2012  Assistant Professor of Early Modern Atlantic World History, Department of History, University of California, Irvine
2001 – 2005  Assistant Professor of Latin American History, Department of History, Villanova University

Education
2001  Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of History
1996  M.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of History
1992  B.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison, History and Latin American Studies

Publications – Books

Publications – Articles and Book Chapters

Grants and Fellowships
2006-2007  HASTAC Residential Research Fellowship of the Law in Slavery and Freedom Project at the Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan
2004  John Carter Brown Library Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities

Professional Memberships include Latin American Studies Association & Peru Section (LASA)